

Applicants authorize the office to charge deposit account No. 13-2546, in the name of Medtronic, Inc., the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) for request continued examination pursuant to §1.114. Applicants include with this response also a petition for a three-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorize the office to charge the same deposit account the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for a three-month extension of time.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

- G¹
13. (4X amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer in which a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in a concentration means for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said catheter.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

- G²
27. (4X amended) A method of modulating tissue encapsulation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises an overcoating of a polymer in which an effective amount of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in the polymer means for modulating tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (4X amended) A method of modulating degradation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting

AMENDED CLAIMS
Re-written in Clean Form
(37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i))

13. (4X amended) An indwelling catheter comprising:
an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and
an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;
wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer in which a steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in a concentration means for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said catheter.
14. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 further comprising one or more helical coils formed in the elongate body between the proximal and distal ends.
15. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polyethers, polyesters, polyvinyl aromatics, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyolefins, acrylic polymers or copolymers, vinyl halid polymers or copolymers, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinylidene halides, polyacrylonitriles, copolymers of vinyl monomers with each other and olefins, and combinations thereof.
16. The indwelling catheter of claim 15 wherein the polymer is selected from the group of polyurethanes, silicones, or combination thereof.
17. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is a glucocorticosteroid.
18. The indwelling catheter of claim 17 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is selected from the group of cortisol, cortisone, fludrocortisone, Prednisone, Prednisolone, 6 α -methylprednisolone, triamcinolone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, beclomethasone, aclomethasone, amcinonide, clebethasol, clocortolone, derivatives thereof, and salts thereof.
19. The indwelling catheter of claim 18 wherein the glucocorticosteroid is

dexamethasone, a derivative thereof, or a salt thereof.

24. The indwelling catheter of claim 13 wherein the tissue-contacting surface further includes heparin.

27. (4X amended) A method of modulating tissue encapsulation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises an overcoating of a polymer in which an effective amount of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is intimately mixed in the polymer means for modulating tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter.

29. (4X amended) A method of modulating degradation of an indwelling catheter comprising implanting the indwelling catheter into a patient, wherein the indwelling catheter comprises:

an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; and

an external fitting coupled to the proximal end;

wherein the tissue-contacting surface of the elongate body comprises a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent means for modulating degradation of said indwelling catheter.

33. (4X amended) A method of making an indwelling catheter comprising:

providing an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, a tissue-contacting surface, and at least one interior lumen therethrough; wherein the tissue-contacting surface comprises an overcoat of a polymer intimately mixed with an effective amount of steroidal anti-inflammatory agent means for modulating degradation or tissue encapsulation of said indwelling catheter; and
coupling an external fitting to the proximal end of the elongate body.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the step of providing an elongate body comprises intimately mixing the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent with the

polymer in a solvent and applying the mixture to the elongate body to form a tissue-contacting surface.

36. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the polymer is a non-porous polymer.

37. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is between .1% and 1% of the total solid combined weight of the polymer and the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

38. The catheter of claim 37, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone and beclomethasone.

39. The catheter of claim 13, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is impregnated into the polymer of the tissue-contacting surface.

41. The method of claim 29, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is impregnated into the polymer of the tissue-contacting surface.

43. The method of claim 29, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is between .1% and 1% of the total solid combined weight of the polymer and the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the steroidal anti-inflammatory agent is selected from the group consisting of dexamethasone and beclomethasone.